

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:PRMAYHEW:JDB
APPROVED BY EA - MR. HUMMEL
IO - MR. STERMER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, KS, KN, MY

SUBJECT: KOREAN QUESTION AT THE 31 ST UNGA: APPROACH TO
ASEAN AMBASSADORS

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL TODAY DISCUSSED KOREAN PORTION OF SECRETARY'S JULY 22 SPEECH WITH AMBASSADOR ZAIN OF MALAYSIA. ASSISTANT SECRETARY, NOTING THAT SECRETARY HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO BRING IT TO ATTENTION OF MALAYSIA AND OTHER ASEAN STATES, SAID THAT OUR INTEREST, LIKE THAT OF THE ASEAN STATES, WAS AVOIDANCE OF ANOTHER CONTENTIOUS UNGA DEBATE ON KOREA, ALTHOUGH WE WERE PREPARED FOR A CONFRONTATION IF ONE BECAME NECESSARY. WE HOPED THAT MALAYSIA, AS AN ASEAN GOVERNMENT WITH A DIRECT REGIONAL INTEREST IN
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KOREA, WOULD ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE A CONSENSUS APPROACH

TOWARD THE KOREAN QUESTION. WE ALSO HOPED THAT MALAYSIA WOULD WORK WITH OTHER ASEAN STATES MEMBERS TO LIMIT NAM ACCEPTANCE OF NORTH KOREAN LANGUAGE AND THAT MALAYSIA AND OTHER NON-ALIGNED WOULD AVOID BEING BOUND BY ANY ACTION TAKEN ON THE KOREAN QUESTION AT NAM.

2. MR. HUMMEL POINTED OUT THAT WE COULD NOT ACCEPT ANY LANGUAGE ON KOREA WHICH CALLS FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE UN COMMAND WITHOUT OTHER ARRANGEMENTS TO MAINTAIN THE ARMISTICE OR WHICH SEEKS TO UPSET THE EXISTING MILITARY BALANCE ON

THE PENINSULA. NOTING THAT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE SUREST WAY TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THE KOREAN QUESTION IS THROUGH RESUMPTION OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND DISCUSSION AMONG THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED, HE UNDERLINED TO THE AMBASSADOR THE SERIOUS NATURE OF OUR OFFER TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE ROK, NORTH KOREA AND THE PRC.

3. AMBASSADOR ZAIN DESCRIBED MALAYSIA'S VIEW OF THE KOREAN QUESTION, NOTING THAT IT WAS THE ONE QUESTION WHICH SEEMED TO DIVIDE THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP. HE POINTED OUT THAT MALAYSIA AND SOME OTHERS HAD TAKEN "LONELY POSITIONS" IN THE NACC IN SUPPORT OF KOREA. MALAYSIA LAST YEAR HAD ABSTAINED ON THE KOREAN QUESTION IN THE UNGA BECAUSE IT SAW THAT AS THE ONLY WAY IT WOULD BE ABLE TO PLAY A MODERATING ROLE IN THE NON-ALIGNED ON THE KOREAN QUESTION.

4. HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED, IN THE "HOT HOUSE ATMOSPHERE" OF THE NAM HE WAS UNCERTAIN AS TO WHAT DEGREE MALAYSIA WOULD BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN A MODERATING ROLE. IT HAD ALREADY BEEN CRITICIZED AS NOT BEING NON-ALIGNED BECAUSE OF THE STANDS IT HAD TAKEN ON SOME OF THE ISSUES. HE AGREED TO REPORT THE CONVERSATION TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND WOULD BRING THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO ITS ATTENTION. HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD LATER BE BOUND BY ANY NAM ACTION ON KOREA. ROBINSON

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